GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1670
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2017
Communication Network in Kerela
Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any data regarding the percentage of coverage of communication network in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to increase the communication network coverage in the remote forest areas of Kerala?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) Since the license for telecom services is granted by the Department of Telecommunications on the basis of Licensed Service Area (LSA), hence the data is available at State-level.

Total number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) installed by all telecom service providers in the state of Kerala for 2G/ 3G/ 4G services, as on 30 June, 2017,are around 79, 000 with total wireless subscriber-base of 3.95 Crore and wireline subscriber-base of around 20.93 lakhs as on 31 May 2017 as per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Report.

(c) In order to ensure accessibility of telecommunication services in a non-Metro Licensed Service Area, the roll-out obligations require service coverage up to 50% district headquarters within first three years from the effective date of the license. Further, there is an obligation to cover additional ten percent (10%) BHQs annually during third, fourth and fifth year.

As per data available, all districts / blocks / villages in the State have access to mobile connectivity and all Gram Panchayats have also been provided with fiber-optic connectivity for broadband services under the Government's Bharat-Net project except one Gram Panchayat (Edamalakudy) which is connected by satellite..

The Department has not laid out any specific measure to cover remote forest areas in any State. Since the license is granted for a longer duration of 20 years, the licensees may continue to extend the service coverage further as per their respective business plans. The Department has facilitated the network roll-out by making available the required spectrum and permitting sharing of entire site-infrastructure.

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